



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

12807

[Docket No. HM-57; Amdt. Nos. 171-14, 172-14, 173-61, 174-14, 175-7, 177-21]

**PART 171—GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS**

**PART 172—COMMODITY LIST OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONTAINING THE SHIPPING NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF ALL ARTICLES SUBJECT TO PARTS 170-189 OF THIS CHAPTER**

**PART 173—SHIPPERS**

**PART 174—CARRIERS BY RAIL FREIGHT**

**PART 175—CARRIERS BY RAIL EXPRESS**

**PART 177—SHIPMENTS MADE BY WAY OF COMMON, CONTRACT, OR PRIVATE CARRIERS BY PUBLIC HIGHWAY**

**Classification of Corrosive Hazards; Postponement of Mandatory Effective Date**

On March 23, 1972, April 26, 1972, and on September 16, 1972, the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board published docket No. HM-57; amendment Nos. 171-14, 172-14, 173-61, 174-14, 175-7, 177-21 (37 FR 5946, 8383, 18918) prescribing new regulations for the classification, packaging, marking, labeling, and transportation of corrosive materials. Compliance with the amendments has been authorized as of April 21, 1972. However, the mandatory effective date is specified as June 30, 1973. Also, on February 12, 1973, the Board published Notice 73-1 (38 FR 4270) under this docket. The comment period closed on April 10, 1973. However, the Board has not completed its study of the comments and therefore has yet to publish an amendment relative to this notice.

The Hazardous Materials Regulations Board has been developing what it considers final resolutions in several areas relating to such matters as open-head fiber drums, materials corrosive only to metals, viscosity of certain corrosive liquids, bottom unloading of cargo tanks, and handling of corrosives in the distribution systems that are not packed, marked, and identified as would be required by HM-57.

The Board is of the opinion that to make HM-57 effective June 30, 1973, with most of these matters unresolved would cause much confusion and administrative difficulties and an undue burden on carriers and shippers. The matters mentioned above, and others should be fully resolved within the next 90 days. The Board, therefore, considers it reasonable and necessary to delay the mandatory effective date. Accordingly, the Board hereby gives notice that the mandatory effective date for amendment Nos. 171-14, 172-14, 173-61, 174-14, 175-7, 177-21 is changed from June 30, 1973, to December 31, 1973. Voluntary compliance continues to be authorized. Note that because of the wording in docket HM-8; amendment No. 173-70 (38 FR 5292) paragraph 173.404(h), the previously authorized corrosive labels will thereby be authorized until January 1, 1975.

The Board also requests additional information as follows from those persons concerned about the omission of a provision for open-head fiber drums in corrosive liquid service.

1. Specific identification of these liquids by maximum and minimum percentages of corrosive ingredient in their formulations;

2. Identification of what criterion indicates these materials to be corrosive in the percentages identified, that is, skin corrosive, or metal corrosive only, and to what metal.

3. Identification of the minimum and maximum viscosity, in centipoises measured at 20° C., for the formulations proposed to be shipped in these drums.

The Board cannot finalize its action in this area without this information. The Board requests that this information be submitted before June 30, 1973, to the Secretary, Hazardous Materials Regulations Board, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on May 11, 1973.

ALAN I. ROBERTS,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc.73-9747 Filed 5-15-73;8:45 am]